U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
Species Account
LAYNE'S BUTTERWEED
Senecio layneae

CLASSIFICATION: Threatened
Federal Register 61:54346 (PDF 104 KB); October 18, 1996

The species was listed as rare by the California Department of Fish and Game in November 1979 under the name Layne's ragwort. The California Native Plant Society has placed it on List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range), also as ragwort.

CRITICAL HABITAT: None designated

RECOVERY PLAN: *Recovery Plan for Gabbro Soil Plants of the Central Sierra Foothills*. 8/30/2002
http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/020830b.pdf (6 MB)

5 YEAR REVIEW: INITIATED
Federal Register 74:12878; 3/25/2009

DESCRIPTION
Note: According to the Jepson Manual, the currently accepted name for the species is *Packera layneae.*

Layne's butterweed, also known as Layne's ragwort, is a perennial herb of the aster family (Asteraceae). The plant sprouts from a rootstock. Its mostly basal lance-shaped leaves are 3 to 10 inches long. Slender, erect stems, with few leaves, are about 10 to 18 inches tall.

Flowers appear between April and June. The several flower heads are 2 to 3 inches wide, each having five to eight orange-yellow ray flowers and many yellow disk flowers.

The species grows on dry pine or oak woodland, on serpentine soil.

See Hickman (1993) in General Information about California Plants, below, for a detailed description of the species, as Layne's ragwort.

DISTRIBUTION
Most known sites are scattered within a 40,000 acre area in western El Dorado County that includes the Pine Hill intrusion and adjacent serpentine. A few other colonies occur in the Eldorado National Forest in El Dorado County, in the Bureau of Land Management Red Hills Management Area in Tuolumne County, and on BLM land in Yuba County. However, most colonies are on privately owned land. One site is on land managed by the California Department of Forestry and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Serpentine-derived soils are formed through a process similar to formation of gabbro soils. Serpentine soils are derived from serpentinite, dunite, and peridotite. They tend to have high concentrations of magnesium, chromium, and nickel, and low concentrations of calcium, nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus. Most plants do not grow well on gabbro or serpentine soils.

Topographic quads: Chinese Camp (458C) 3712074, Moccasin (458D) 3712073, Placerville (510A) 3812067, Shingle Springs (510B) 3812068, Clarksville (511A) 3812161, Georgetown (526A) 3812087, Coloma (526C) 3812078, Garden Valley (526D) 3812077, Pilot Hill (527D) 3812171, Challenge (558B) 3912142, Rackerby (559A) 3912143, Clipper Mills (574C) 3912152

THREATS

Residential and commercial development, road maintenance, change in fire frequency, off-road vehicle use, competition with nonnative vegetation, excessive horse paddocking, mining, and other human-caused conditions variously threaten and are responsible for the declining trend for Layne's butterweed.

REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Learn more about protection efforts by the Pine Hill Preserve.

Kruckeberg, A. 1984. California Serpentines: Flora, Vegetation, Geology, and Management Problems. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Wilson, J. L. 1986. A study of plant species diversity and vegetation pattern associated with the Pine Hill gabbro formation and adjacent substrata, El Dorado County, California. Sacramento, CA: California State University, Sacramento. Thesis.

General Information about California Plants

Photo credits: Harry Mossman, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Larger image: http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/images/laynes_butterweed.jpg

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Last updated July 27, 2009